(c) whether it is a fact that less Kerosene oil is being allotted to Chhattisgarh as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) when the State of Chhattisgarh had demanded to increase the Kerosene allotment and the action taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) to (e) In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, the Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution system (PDS) to various States/Union Territories, including Chhattisgarh, was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 and till 2004-05, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. The State Government of Chhattisgarh have made a request for the allocation of PDS SKO on the basis of uniform per capita availability in all States.

In view of the requests received from various State Governments for increasing the allocation, the Government of India have commissioned the first-ever detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. The final report of NCAER is expected by September, 2005.

Pending the report of NCAER, and Government taking a view thereupon, allocations have been maintained for the year 2005-06 at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during the year to meet emergency/urgent demands for PDS Kerosene in States/Union Territories. The decision about rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/Union Territories will be taken after examining the NCAER report.

Government's control over allotment of dealership

†2311. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil marketing companies select dealers and distributorship under their guidance;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the mode of Government control over them; and

(c) the details of the system evolved by Government so that in the absence of control, corruption and any thing against public interest should not take place?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Based on certain broad parameters advised by the Government to the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), the latter have framed their guidelines for the selection of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributionships and SKO-LDO dealerships for viable locations in the country, and have been making selections in terms of these guidelines. These guidelines, which are objective and transparent in nature, provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in making selection of dealers/ distributors. The procedure includes selection of dealers/distributors by the selection committee of the OMC concerned on the basis of evaluation of the suitability of the candidates *vis-a-vis* certain laid down parameters. Furthers, the guidelines provide for grievance redressal mechanism and any complaint/grievance related to the selection of dealers/distributors is dealt with by the OMCs as per this mechanism. As and when any complaint/representation is received by the Government against selection of dealers/distributors, the same is looked into and if required, the concerned OMC is asked to take appropriate remedial action.

Subsidy on domestic LPG

2312. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to do away with the subsidy on domestic LPG in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will consider continuing the subsidy on domestic LPG in view of the consumers who also comprise of middle class and lower middle class people?